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A

True and Full

RELATION

OF THE

Witches at

Bittenweem:

7C

To which is added by way of Preface,

An Essay for proving the Existence of
Good and Evil Spirits, relating to the
Witches of Pennsylvania, now in
Custody, with Arguments
against the Credulity of
the Present Age.

EDINBURGH

Printed by John Bell, Junior, and are to be
Sold at his Printing House in Leith
1704.

REDACTION

OF THE
WITNESS AT

TESTIMONY



To which is added
A List of the
Gifts and Donations
received by the
Museum since the
year 1753 to the
present time
and a Catalogue
of the
Library of the
Museum

PRINTED BY
J. JOHNSON, ST. PAULS CHURCH-YARD
1790

To the Reader.

THere being many People of this Age, who deny the Existence of Good and Evil Spirits, and who deny there are Wizards or Enchanters; I thought fit to give this small hint to convince the Judicious Reader, as well with Scripture Reasons, as others that have hapned before this, and in our Age. I have here inserted the way and manner of the Witches at Pittenweem as well as it comes to my Hand, and their way and manner of Torturing and bewitching those People, against whom they bend their Designs. I had much more to add to this, but Referring the rest of this Relation, till such time, as we have the full of their Confessions

I Remain Yours, &c.

To the Reader

The first thing I thought of when I
was asked to write this book was
how much I had to say. I have
many things to say, but I have
not time to say them all. I have
only a few minutes to say what
I think is most important. I think
it is important to say that I am
not a perfect man. I am a man
who has made many mistakes.
I have been wrong many times.
I have been foolish many times.
I have been selfish many times.
I have been cruel many times.
I have been dishonest many times.
I have been unkind many times.
I have been untruthful many times.
I have been unfaithful many times.
I have been unloving many times.
I have been unkind many times.
I have been untruthful many times.
I have been unfaithful many times.
I have been unloving many times.

I am not a perfect man.

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An Essay for proving the
Existence of Good and
Evil Spirits. Together
with an Account of the
Witches at *Pittenweem*.

ALBEIT it be evident from
Scripture, and every Man's
Experience, that there is a
measure of God's good Spi-
rit, given us to profit with
all, exhorting to Righte-
ousness, and whispering us, it were behind
us, *Here is the way, and walk ye in it.*

So there are evil Spirits gone forth, Ma-
liciously Tempting us to things quite con-
trary, even to Build up the Kingdom of
Satan, promising the Possessions and Plea-
sures of this Lower World, to such as
will down and Worship this Tempter,
such as, *Wealth to the Covetous, and to the
Unchaste, Revenge to the Proud,*

By which means the Devil hath prevail-
ed with too many miserable Wicked
Creatures, to engage in an actual Conte-
stancy with him, as appears by the Witch-
crafts.

craft's lately committed in the West, and at this time by those in Custody at Pitten-
weem.

Yet notwithstanding that it was the Heresie of the Ancient Sadducees, to deny Angels and Spirits, Mat. 23. There is a new sort of them started up, who, as they deny the Existence of good Spirits, deny evill Spirits also, and the Possessing of, and Covenanting with Witches. Fools, who say, *That seeing with the Corporal Eye is Believing.*

But these People either believe the Scriptures, or not; if they believe, our Proof is ready. What things were they of whom we read in Jude 6, *Angels that kept not their first estate, but left their Habitations, and were reserved in Chains, until the Judgement of the Great Day.* Who was it that belought our Saviour? *If thou throw us out, suffer us to enter into the Herd of Swine.* Who was it that Tempted Job? What was the Legion that possessed one single Person? a Legion consisting of Twelve Thousand Six Hundred, but so many Spiritual Substances filled with Wickedness against GOD, and Enmity against Man. The Story of the Witch of Endor, is known to all. We reach now

Manasse used Enchantments, and Witch-
crafts not a few, and dealt with Familiar
Spirits. So that those who believe the
Scriptures, and the Powers of the Life to
come, will be abundantly satisfied; For
Wisdom is justified of her Children.

But to convince the Infidel World, let
us come to sensible Demonstrations; To
whom Seeing is Believing. And as to the
Influence of Good Spirit, I've discoursed
with many, but never found one, who
denied that he found in himself something
Spiritual, which, without Flattery or Hy-
pocritie, shew'd forth the Mountain of Ho-
liness, so as a wayfaring-man, tho' a Fool,
could not mistake it, according to the
Prophet.

And as to the Influence of Evil Spirits,
we have many thousand Witnesses, both
in this, and the other side, of the Hemi-
sphere, I mean *America*, and the Planta-
tions in *New-England*. But why so far
away, Have we not Witnesses here beside
our selves at *Presentments*? The Person tor-
tured, and the Witcher who doth curse,
and shew their Deeds; and both they do
the mischief, telling how by Confederacy
with the Devil, and by Images of Wax,
and putting the Patient in Distorted Fi-
gures

gures and Shapes, as at sometime his Joints will be so firm, that no Strength can bow his Wrists, or the Joints of his Legs; Dealing with him after the manner of their dealing with *Bargentan's* Daughter in the Well, such Deeds being done on her and this Man, as is impossible any Dis-ease or Deceit could produce. Some there are who are hardened, others penitent, and Owners of as much Reason, as those who laugh at all Conceit of Witches.

The Exactest Scrutiny of Skillfull Physicians, finding no Indisposition in their Bodies, nor Distraction in their minds. These Confessions have also been made by those, who at the same time have produced the Ensigns and Engines of their Trade, and have given the Stranders by Ocular Inspection, by Torturing their Patients even before their Judges, shewing what they did, and how.

Besides all this, Witches in Different places here and in *America*, both in the last Ages and this, do concur in Witnessing the same things, viz. The Covenant 'twixt the Devil and them, their Renouncing their Baptismal Vows to GOD, and engaging to serve the Devil, and he promising them a better State of Living;

as Satisfaction or Revenge on their Enemies, which is the principal point, but he performs it as he is a War, and he promises Wealth, but he reads or hears of any grown rich by Witchcraft. And in all Places they torture by Pictures and Images of Wax. For before Christianity they worshipped a Corpse of a Picture of Wax, as is yet practised by many of the Laplanders, in Europe, tho' after another manner. In fine, if such Evils and Dances be ridicul'd, there can be no Certainty in Human Affairs, all the Transactions of Mankind will be merely empty notions, since Proof can be of no moment.

Thus I have given you my Sentiments, which I cut short, intending to offer forth the Relation of the Witches and Sorceries, at this time used in *Pittsborough*, which are as follows.

Peter Mortoun a Smith in *Pittsborough*, being desired by one *Beattie Laid*, to do some Work to her, which the said Peter did refuse, excusing himself, in respect he had been pro-engag'd to serve a Ship with Nails, within certain

certain time; So that untill he had finished that Work, he could not engage in any other. Yet, notwithstanding of this Excuse, the said *Beatie Laing* declared her self dissatisfied and disappointed, and threatened to be Revenged upon him for it. Shortly thereafter, the said *Peter* finding his Body in an Indisposition, and coming by the Dwelling house Door of this *Beatie Laing*, he sees there a small vessel full of Water, and therein a Coal of Fire Stocked in the Water, so perceiving an Alteration in his Health, and Remembring the said *Beatie Laings* threatnings and Menaces, and that she had been under no good Reputation, He presently Suspects, that there might be Devilrie in the matter, He quarrels the thing. And thereafter, finding his Indisposition to Encrease from worle to worse, being Tortured and Prickt, as it were with Bodkins and Pins; He openly throws the blame of all upon Witchcraft, whereof he principally Accuses this *Beatie Laing*, whereupon by Warrant she's apprehended, and severall others in the Town of *Pittenweem*, but before apprehension no confession was made, and the Man still continued afflicted in such a manner, as no Natural Reason could be given for it, his Countenance and Neck

Neck being so Distorted, his Back so prodigiously Rising of a Sudden, and falling so Suddenly, his Belly also Swelling up at another time, and presently drawing his Back to his Belly. His Jaynts so plyable, at another time so Stiff and Firm, that no Strength could Bow them, and so as no Natural Distemper hath produced such Effects, and Physicians Incapable to give him Cure or Ease, he particularizes the Names of those Tortoring him, as *Barbarrins* Daughter did in the West, and when whole he Complains of, and now in Custody, are brought to the Room where he is, suppose in the mean time the afflicted person being in a Bed, Covered over with cloaths, yet he tells his Tormenters are in the Room, and calls them by their Names, yet though no Confession was made formerly as said is, since their being taken in custody; *Beatie Laing* now Confesses her own Crime, and Accuses several others Accessary with her, *Howe*. *Beatie Laing* confesses her Compact with Devil, and using Spells in prosecuting Revenge against this *Peter Adair*, particularly the Stockning of the Coal of in Water: And likewise, That she has her Associates, viz. *James Corrie* *Lillie* *Wain*

Wallace, and *Lawson*, had composed an Image or Picture of Wax; and each of the forenamed Persons having fastned in it their several Pins, in order to Torture. She likewise confessed, that one *Isobel Adams* a young Lass was likewise in compact with the Devil too.

Her foresaid Associates *Janet Corset* and the rest, do own, their being present at the making the Image of Wax, but being Examined where the Image was, and to Deliver it up, they Declare they can give no account of it, but Complain, that the Devil hath stolln it from them, and say, that he appeared to them since they came to Prison.

This young Woman *Isobel Adams* seems to be Penitent, and under great Remorse, acknowledging her Compact with the Devil, which she says was made up after this manner: viz.

That being in the House of the said *Beatie Laing*, and a Man at the end of the Table, *Beatie* Proposes to *Isobel*, that since she would not Fee and Hire with her, that she would do it, with the Man at the end of the Table; And accordingly *Isobel* agreed to it, and spoke with the Man at that time in General Terms.

Eight

Eight Days after, the same Person in Appearance comes to her, and owns that he was the Devil, desiring her to Engage in his Service, and to be Trustee therein; And that he would Procure her a far more Prosperous and Pleasant Life and Living in this World, than what her present was, as Wealth, Respect, Prosperity in all things: and thus the Confederacy being concluded, he commits Uncleaness with her, which no man ever did, as she pretends, and put his mark in her Flesh, which was very painful; Sometime thereafter she was ordered to attend the Devil and the rest of the Company, together with a Piper, to go to the House of one *M'grigor* not far from thence, and to Murder him in the Night, but says that the Man Awakening with the Buss, and Blessing himself, they were forced to retire, and leave the thing undone.

And it is for certain, that *M'grigor* was Extreemly troubled in his Mind that very Night: However this Woman seems Ingenious in her Acknowledgements, and very penitent for her Wickedness, and if she continue penitent, GOD who forgave *Manasseh* his Witchcrafts, and dealing with Familiar Spirits, may forgive her also.

Her

Her case seems to be, the same with one *Mary Johnston* in *Haitside*, who upon Confession of Witchcraft was Executed, and became very penitent. Who upon Discontentment & Repining at her present Condition, she Invoked the Devil to come to her Assistance, if none Else would who appeared to her by the Name of *Simon*, Rendering such Service as she Demanded. Her Master Reproved her one day, for not having the Chimney clear of Ashes, this *Simon* cleaned it ever after. her Master Likewise having Ordered her to chase away a Herd of Swine out of such a Park, it made her Laugh to see how the Devil Tossed them up and down, it seems they Run Hard whom the Devil Drives; Notwithstanding she became penitent, and shew such Remorse, that she Dyed Extreamly to the Satisfaction of all.

Upon a Complaint given in to the Privy Council as is above, against these Witches at *Pittenweem*, the Council have Ordered Her Majesty's Advocate to insist against them before the Justice General, where all Circumstances will be Examined, and Justice done. There are eight of them all, whereas only five have confessed.

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